

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Snow, Partly Cloudy 32°F (0°C)
Tonight: Partly cloudy, 22°F (-6°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly Cloudy, 36°F (2°C)
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Volume 126, Number 64

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

May Zhou '04 Dead, Found in Car Trunk

Police Think Suicide May Be Cause of Death

By Nick Semenkovich
STAFF REPORTER

Mengyao “May” Zhou '04 was found dead in the trunk of her car last Thursday, Jan. 25, from an apparent suicide. The City of Santa Rosa Police Department is waiting on toxicology and other test results before declaring an official cause of death.

Zhou, an electrical engineering graduate student at Stanford University, was reported missing to the Stanford Police on Jan. 21. She was last seen on the evening of Jan. 20 leaving her residence to run errands. At approximately 3:30 a.m. on Jan. 25, an officer from the Santa Rosa Junior College Police Department located her 2006 Toyota in one of the student lots, according to a Santa Rosa Police press release. A deceased woman, later identified as Zhou, was found in the trunk.

There are “no early indications of foul play” and “items in the trunk indicate the subject may have committed suicide,” according to the Santa Rosa Police press release.

The Sonoma County Coroner's Office completed an autopsy Friday, Jan. 26 which was inconclusive. According to another Santa Rosa Police press release, there were “no outward signs of trauma to the body.” Toxicology studies will take several weeks to perform.

Wechung M. Wang '04, a Stanford classmate of Zhou's, said that she was shocked at the news. “She seemed happy, healthy, and having a normal day,” describing the Thursday before she went missing.

The Santa Rosa Police were not available for comment and did not respond to repeated phone messages.

Yitong Zhou, May Zhou's father,

said to *The Santa Rosa Press Democrat* that the police had not released details of the crime scene and case to him. “I asked, they don't want to tell me,” Yitong Zhou said to *The Democrat*. “They don't want to tell me details because they haven't released anything to the outside, they still want to study.”

“We're making progress toward trying to have a better understanding of what occurred,” Santa Rosa Police Sgt. Paul Henry also said to *The Democrat*. “It's a suspicious death ... if we find evidence of foul play in the future, the suspect will be the only one who knows what's in there.”

Zhou's father is convinced that his daughter did not commit suicide. “I don't believe it, because I'm a parent,” Zhou said to the *The San Jose Mercury News*. “I know her. I don't think this is what she would do.” Her family suspects an abduction because Zhou did not like to drive long distances. Santa Rosa Junior College, where Zhou's car was found, is some 90 miles away from Stanford.

In an interview with *The Tech*, Yitong Zhou said detectives had spoken with May Zhou's younger sister about academic pressures, asking her questions about how their father would have reacted if May Zhou received an A-minus in a class. “They asked all these strange questions,” he said to *The San Jose Mercury News*. “My daughter was a straight-A student ... I think they're going the wrong direction. They're looking for clues to support their hypothesis.”

Zhou graduated from MIT in 2004 with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and obtained an MEng in EECS a year later.

Grad Dean Plans to Retire in June

Committee to Appoint New Dean For Graduate Students by Mid-April

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg
STAFF REPORTER

Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert, whose office is meant to serve as graduate students' strongest advocate within the MIT administration, will retire at the end of June. An MIT search committee containing six faculty, one staff member, and one graduate student will recommend a successor by mid-April, according to the MIT News Office.

In his seven and a half years as dean, Colbert has balanced his goal of nurturing graduate student community with the other administrative responsibilities of the Graduate Students Office.

Appointed to the position in 1999, Colbert came into an office tasked with overseeing all graduate students' education, but he directed his most visible efforts toward graduate student life. He told *The Tech*

in a 1999 interview that his goal was to make MIT more attractive to prospective students by creating a “community of scholars.”

Colbert's current plans use similar wording: “We are developing a graduate commons,” he said. Part of this commons is physical, as MIT concentrates graduate housing in the northwest part of campus. Another

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ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert will leave his post at MIT on June 30, 2007.

Profs Duke It Out in Big Number Duel

Two Philosophers Vie to Write Largest Possible Finite Number on Chalkboard

By Mandana T. Manzari

Dr. Evil clutched his heart as though it had been pierced by an arrow. Trembling, he fell to his knees

Feature of the crowded stuffy room, all eyes watching him. The Mexican Multiplier threw up his

hands in victory, smiling, as Dr. Evil whispered, “I've been crushed.” The battle was finally over.

On Friday, Jan. 26, two philosophers, MIT Associate Professor Agustin Rayo (The Mexican Multiplier) and Princeton Associate Professor Adam N. Elga (Dr. Evil) engaged in the Large Number Duel, in which they attempted to one-up each other by inscribing the largest finite number ever to be written on an ordinary-sized chalkboard. The feat, if successfully accomplished, would be worthy of a note in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The Large Number Duel required the use of logic, numerical tricks, and philosophical wit. The

use of philosophy is “crucial,” Rayo said. “The limit of math ability was reached at the end. Knowing a bit of philosophy, that was the key.”

“The philosophical debate-turned-boxing-match really opened my eyes to some of the cool math-related things that the Philosophy Department here does,” Quentin E. Smith '10 said. “They were able to invoke all sorts of esoteric constructions in their quest to write a bigger number. I also enjoyed when they referenced the Busy Beaver function.”

The rules of the duel gave free rein to the contestants' creativity and

∞, Page 13



DAVID HE

MITHenge, a semi-annual phenomenon during which the sun sets in line with the Infinite Corridor, occurred over the past four days. Predictions for upcoming years can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/mithenge/mithenge-data.text>.

NEWS

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In Short

¶ **Deborah K. Fitzgerald** was appointed the new dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, after serving as interim dean since July 2006.

¶ **The PE Lottery** opens today and ends Feb. 7. Enter at <http://web.mit.edu/athletics/www/physed.html>.

May Zhou '04

Mengyao “May” Zhou '04 was a young woman whose enthusiasm was “infectious,” said Jyoti Tibrewala '04, and who was definitely “one to know.”

Zhou, 23, was found dead in the trunk of her car Thursday, Jan. 25, after disappearing from the Stanford campus the Saturday before.

Tibrewala, who knew Zhou in McCormick Hall's Resident-Based Advising during her freshman year and, like Zhou, previously wrote for *The Tech*, also remembered Zhou as al-



Zhou, Page 11

Stephen M. Meyer '64

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Stephen M. Meyer, MIT political science professor, an expert in national security issues and a passionate advocate of global biodiversity, died Dec. 10 at the age of 54. The cause was cancer.

Meyer, the director of the MIT Project on Environmental Politics and Policy and a member of the MIT Council on the Environment, focused his teaching and research on the interaction of science, economics and politics in policy-making, particularly in the areas of natural resource exploitation, land use and wildlife habitat preservation.

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WORLD & NATION

Europe Resists US On Curbing Ties With Iran

By Steven R. Weisman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

European governments are resisting Bush administration demands that they curtail support for exports to Iran and that they block transactions and freeze assets of some Iranian companies, officials on both sides say. The resistance threatens to open a new rift between Europe and the United States over Iran.

Administration officials say that a new American drive to reduce exports to Iran and cut off its financial transactions is designed to further isolate Iran commercially amid the first signs that global pressure has hurt Iran's oil production and its economy. There are also reports of rising political unrest in Iran.

In December, Iran's refusal to give up its nuclear program led the U.N. Security Council to impose economic sanctions. Iran's rebuff is based on its contention that its nuclear program is civilian in nature, while the United States and other countries believe Iran plans to make weapons.

At issue now is how the resolution is to be implemented, with Europeans resisting American appeals for quick action, citing technical and political problems related to the heavy European economic ties to Iran and its oil industry.

Talks On Korea Nuclear Program Set to Resume Feb. 8

By Joseph Kahn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

China announced Tuesday that talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons would resume in Beijing next week, the latest in a long series of negotiations that have failed to curb its nuclear program.

Discussions are set to resume Feb. 8 even though the United States and North Korea have not settled a dispute over freezing North Korean financial assets at a bank in Macau, a Chinese territory.

U.S. Treasury officials and their North Korean counterparts met Tuesday in Beijing to discuss US financial measures that have led to the freezing of \$24 million in North Korean assets held at the bank, Banco Delta Asia. No breakthrough appeared imminent, but the discussions were scheduled to continue Wednesday.

The financial dispute overshadowed the last round of nuclear negotiations, which ended in a stalemate in December. Whether North Korea would bargain about its nuclear program while its money remained frozen was unclear.

Senators at Louisiana Hearing Criticize Federal Katrina Aid

By Adam Nossiter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS

Three U.S. senators sounded off on Monday about the slow pace of recovery from Hurricane Katrina at a hearing in the French Quarter, criticizing federal officials for giving Mississippi a greater share than Louisiana and for imposing rules that are halting government aid.

With Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., a presidential candidate, expected to speak at the hearing of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, dozens of residents lined up outside the Louisiana Supreme Court building hoping to be admitted. But only a small fraction were allowed inside, where Obama jousting with Donald E. Powell, the federal coordinator of Gulf Coast rebuilding, about where the money was, and why more of it was not in Louisiana.

Obama and Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., focused on why Mississippi, with far less damage, had not received proportionately less federal aid. Powell said Congress had put a cap on how much aid money any one state could get.

Former Journalist Jailed in Libby Case Testifies at Trial

By Neil A. Lewis and Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Judith Miller, a former reporter for *The New York Times*, testified Tuesday as a witness for the prosecutor who had put her in jail for 85 days, recounting details of her once-confidential interviews with I. Lewis Libby Jr.

Miller had initially refused to cooperate with the government in its investigation of Libby, saying she would not violate her oath of confidentiality to the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney. But the special prosecutor, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, with the support of the federal courts, had her jailed until she relented. She asserted that Libby had released her from her vow of confidentiality.

As she began her testimony, she was calm and soft-voiced as she faced Fitzgerald — who is still investigating her in an unrelated case — and discussed three conversations she had in June and July of 2003 with Libby. Those conversations, in which Miller said an agitated and anxious Libby criticized the CIA and informed her of the identity of an agency operative

named Valerie Wilson, are a significant part of the perjury and obstruction case against him.

It was only after Fitzgerald briskly concluded his questioning, and Miller found herself facing a caustic cross-examination from one of Libby's defense lawyers, that her composure slowly withered. Under the questioning by William H. Jeffress Jr., who attacked her memory and credibility, she began to sigh frequently and grow testy in her responses.

Pressed about why she failed to remember an important June meeting with Libby during her first grand jury appearance, she said with her voice rising: "Counselor, I've already said I didn't remember that meeting. I just didn't remember."

The day ended with an extraordinary argument by lawyers for both sides, as well as a lawyer for Miller, over whether Jeffress could ask her if she had other sources she spoke to about Wilson. The question, which was left unresolved by Judge Reggie M. Walton until Wednesday, threatened to derail the trial over the very constitutional issue that saw Miller go to jail in 2005.

Walton seemed disinclined to al-

low questions about Miller's other sources. "I appreciate that there is an interest the media has in not having questions asked that aren't germane to this case," he said. But if he does allow them — and she refuses to answer — she could be held in contempt once again and a mistrial could result.

In her more than two hours on the stand, Miller became the focal point for an intense drama involving three people in the room — herself, Fitzpatrick and Libby. As she provided the testimony that was most damaging to Libby, he sat almost motionless in his chair about 20 feet away and stared at her.

Fitzgerald first took her through her June 23, 2003, meeting with Libby in the Old Executive Office Building. Libby, who she said was usually a low-key guy, "appeared to be agitated and frustrated."

He was unhappy about growing public concern that President Bush had used inaccurate information in his most recent State of the Union speech, in which he said there was evidence that Saddam Hussein had recently tried to acquire uranium from Africa.

200,000 in Massachusetts May Require More Health Insurance

By Alice Dembner
THE BOSTON GLOBE

More than 200,000 people with health insurance would have to buy additional coverage to meet proposed minimum standards under Massachusetts' new health insurance law, according to a count completed by insurers Monday.

Most of the individuals do not have coverage for prescription drugs or have drug coverage that is more restrictive than the minimum proposed by the state board implementing the law. The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector board is scheduled to vote on the standards in March. Individuals would face a fine of about \$200 next year and more in future years, if they do not have insurance that meets the standards.

"It's very troubling," said Richard Lord, president of Associated

Industries of Massachusetts and a member of the Connector board. "The new law was about expanding access for people without any health insurance. I don't think we should be forcing people who do have some coverage to spend more."

The number of residents whose insurance would not meet the minimum standards is more than four times the estimate made by the board's staff earlier this month before the board altered the proposed standards. And the new number includes only those covered by the five largest Massachusetts insurers. It does not include tens of thousands more who have policies that set dollar limits on coverage, policies that the board also said were inadequate.

The minimum standards are still very much in flux. The board postponed a final decision last week be-

cause of concern about the cost of the basic plans.

Many of the initial bids from insurers who hope to offer the plans carried premiums that the board considered unaffordable. Based on bids from insurers, the board estimated that a rough average premium would total \$380 a month, far above the \$200 cited by then-Governor Mitt Romney, before the health law was passed. The board added more requirements and then asked insurers to submit new bids with lower price tags.

Under the law, adults must obtain coverage that meets the minimum standards by July 1 or pay a penalty, unless they get a waiver by proving they can't afford insurance. The first-year penalty, a loss of the personal tax exemption, wouldn't kick in until after people file their 2007 taxes.

WEATHER

At Last, Snow is Back

By Roberto Rondanelli
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Snow has been scarce this season in Boston. Only 1.8 inches have been recorded so far, which is significantly lower than what would be expected from the climatology for the season (22.4 inches) and with the amount of snowfall accumulated by the same date last year (19.4 inches). If no snow were to be recorded today the 2006-2007 winter season so far would be the one with the least snow since records started to be kept in 1890 (sliding under the previous record of 5.4 inches in 1943). However, this state of affairs is not expected to last, as a relatively weak low pressure system will move through our region today, bringing at least a couple of inches of snow, with higher local accumulations over the Cape. After the storm leaves our region early this afternoon, expect warming. High temperatures will be above freezing for Thursday and Friday. On Friday morning a new small wave of low pressure will make it to New England, bringing the possibility of another couple of inches of snow on the ground.

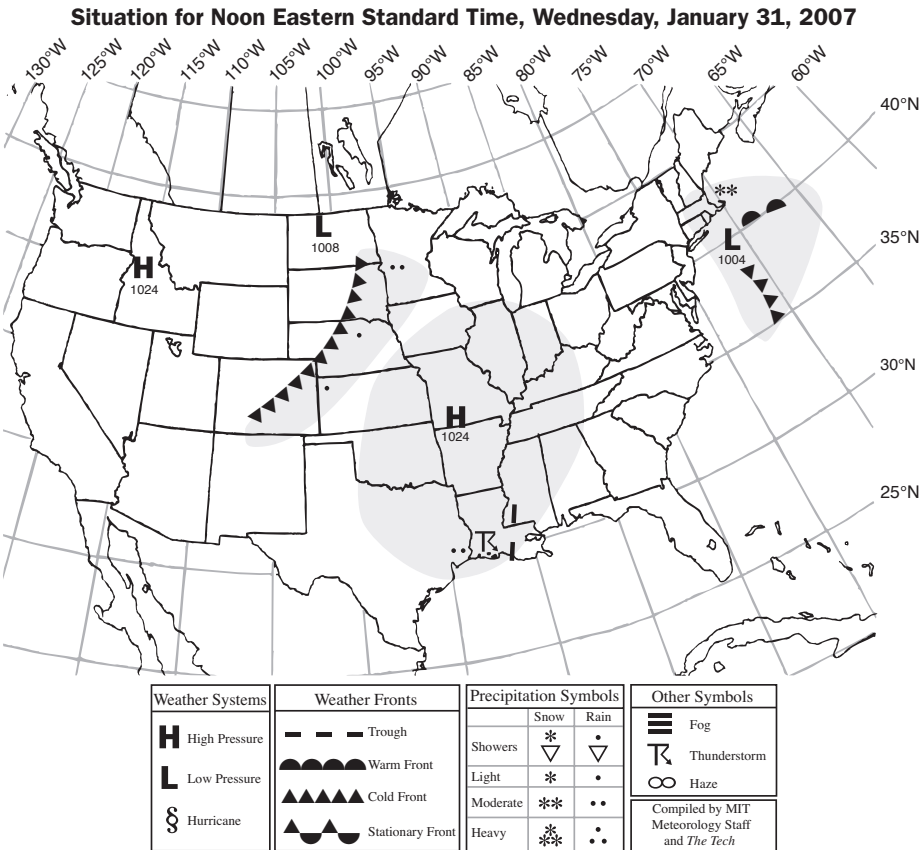
Extended Forecast

Today: Snow in the morning. Partly cloudy in the afternoon to mostly cloudy in the evening. Low 22°F (-6°C) High 32°F (0°C)

Tonight: Partly Cloudy. Low 22°F (-6°C)

Thursday: Mostly cloudy and breezy in the afternoon. High 36°F (2°C)

Friday: Flurries likely in the morning changing to sleet or light rain. Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy in the afternoon . Low 29°F (-2°C) High 38°F (3°C)



FDA Produces New Safety Plan To Speed Drug Risks Detection

By Gardiner Harris
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Food and Drug Administration announced Tuesday changes to ensure that marketed drugs are as safe as advertised, including the first attempt to do a comprehensive assessment of the safety of drugs 18 months after introduction.

The agency also announced the creation of an advisory panel to improve the way that it announces safety worries and a collaboration with the Veterans Health Administration to track how real patients fare after taking drugs.

The FDA plan is the latest attempt to fix the agency after a series of missteps. In September 2004, Merck withdrew its arthritis drug, Vioxx, after a study showed that it doubled

the risks of heart attack. At about the same time, the FDA announced that anti-depressants cause some teens to think more about suicide.

In both cases, the FDA took years to acknowledge risks to millions of patients that had been apparent to some researchers.

“We don’t see this as the only answer,” FDA Commissioner Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach said at a news conference announcing the initiatives. “It’s merely a step as we continue a process of improvement that will be ongoing.”

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said in a written statement that far greater changes are needed at the FDA. Dodd promised to introduce on Wednesday two bills that would restructure the FDA and require drug-

makers to disclose the results of all clinical trials involving humans. The bills have been co-authored by Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who has called the FDA far too “cozy” with drugmakers.

In many cases, the date that the FDA will undertake the efforts it announced Tuesday is uncertain. For instance, Dr. Steven Galson, director of the agency’s drug center, said at the press conference that the pilot program to systematically assess a drug’s safety 18 months after its introduction will probably take about a year to put into place — with the assessment due 18 months after that.

In a scathing assessment released in September, the Institute of Medicine concluded that the FDA was rife with internal squabbles.

Massive Explosion Destroys Gas Station in West Virginia

By Ian Urbina
THE NEW YORK TIMES

An explosion at a gas station near a West Virginia ski resort on Tuesday killed four people and injured five others, the authorities said.

The blast occurred just before 11 a.m. at the Flat Top Little General Store on Route 19 in Ghent, shattering windows about a mile away and toppling a fire truck that responded to the scene after a 911 call about a propane gas leak, fire officials said.

A local volunteer firefighter, a county building inspector and an emergency medical technician, all investigating the leak, were among the dead, whose names were not released, the police said.

Investigators said they believed the blast was caused by gas that seeped into the store from a propane tank and ignited.

“The best way to explain that for you is to imagine an explosion in your home and when you walk back up to your home the only thing that’s left is toothpicks,” said Sterling Lewis, a state fire marshal, during a news conference in Ghent as he described the gnarled wreckage at the scene.

World Scientists Near Consensus on Warming

By James Kanter and Andrew C. Revkin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Scientists from across the world gathered Monday to hammer out the final details of an authoritative report on climate change that is expected to project centuries of rising temperatures and sea levels unless there are curbs in emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases that trap heat in the atmosphere.

Scientists involved in writing or reviewing the report say it is nearly certain to conclude that there is at least a 90 percent chance that human-caused emissions are the main factor in warming since 1950. The report is the fourth since 1990 from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is overseen by the United Nations.

The report, several of the authors said, will describe a growing body of evidence that warming is likely to cause a profound transformation of the planet. Three large sections of the report will be forthcoming during the year. The first will be a summary for policymakers and information on basic climate science, which is expected to be issued on Friday. Among the findings in recent drafts:

- ¶ The Arctic Ocean could largely be devoid of sea ice during summer later in the century.
- ¶ Europe’s Mediterranean shores could become barely habitable in summers, while the Alps could shift from snowy winter destinations to summer havens from the heat.
- ¶ Growing seasons in temperate regions will expand, while droughts are likely to ravage further the semiarid regions of Africa and southern Asia.

Missteps on PlayStation 3 Linked To Sony’s Drop in Quarterly Profit

By Martin Fackler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

The dip in Sony’s quarterly earnings released early Tuesday underscore what many analysts call the biggest single challenge now facing the recovering Japanese electronics conglomerate: the shaky start of its long-awaited PlayStation 3 game console.

On Tuesday, Sony said net profit slipped 5.3 percent to 159.9 billion yen (\$1.31 billion) in the quarter ended Dec. 31. The company, based in Tokyo, blamed a large loss in its games division, despite rebounding sales in its bread-and-butter consumer electronics.

The games division posted a quarterly operating loss of 54.2 billion yen (\$446 million), in contrast to a profit of 67.8 billion yen in the quarter a year earlier. Sony said the decline was a result of a decision to set the price of the PlayStation 3 below the cost of production as a way to bolster market share. It also pointed to one-time start-up costs for PlayStation 3, which was released in Japan and the United States in November.

Analysts, however, said the weak results reflected more fundamental problems with the new console — a high price tag and a complexity that is scaring away all but die-hard game fans. They added that Sony still had

plenty of time to turn PlayStation 3’s fortunes around, but only if it cut prices further and made the console more appealing by adding games.

“PlayStation 3’s performance so far? In a word, bad,” said Yuta Sakurai, an analyst at Nomura Securities. “It is clearly not good for Sony that a strategic product is off to a weak start. But it’s still early. This race is a marathon, not a sprint.”

Sony and its chief executive, Howard Stringer, had hoped that PlayStation 3 would become the company’s latest “champion product,” much like its predecessor, the PlayStation 2, which became a worldwide blockbuster with more than 106 million units sold since 2000.

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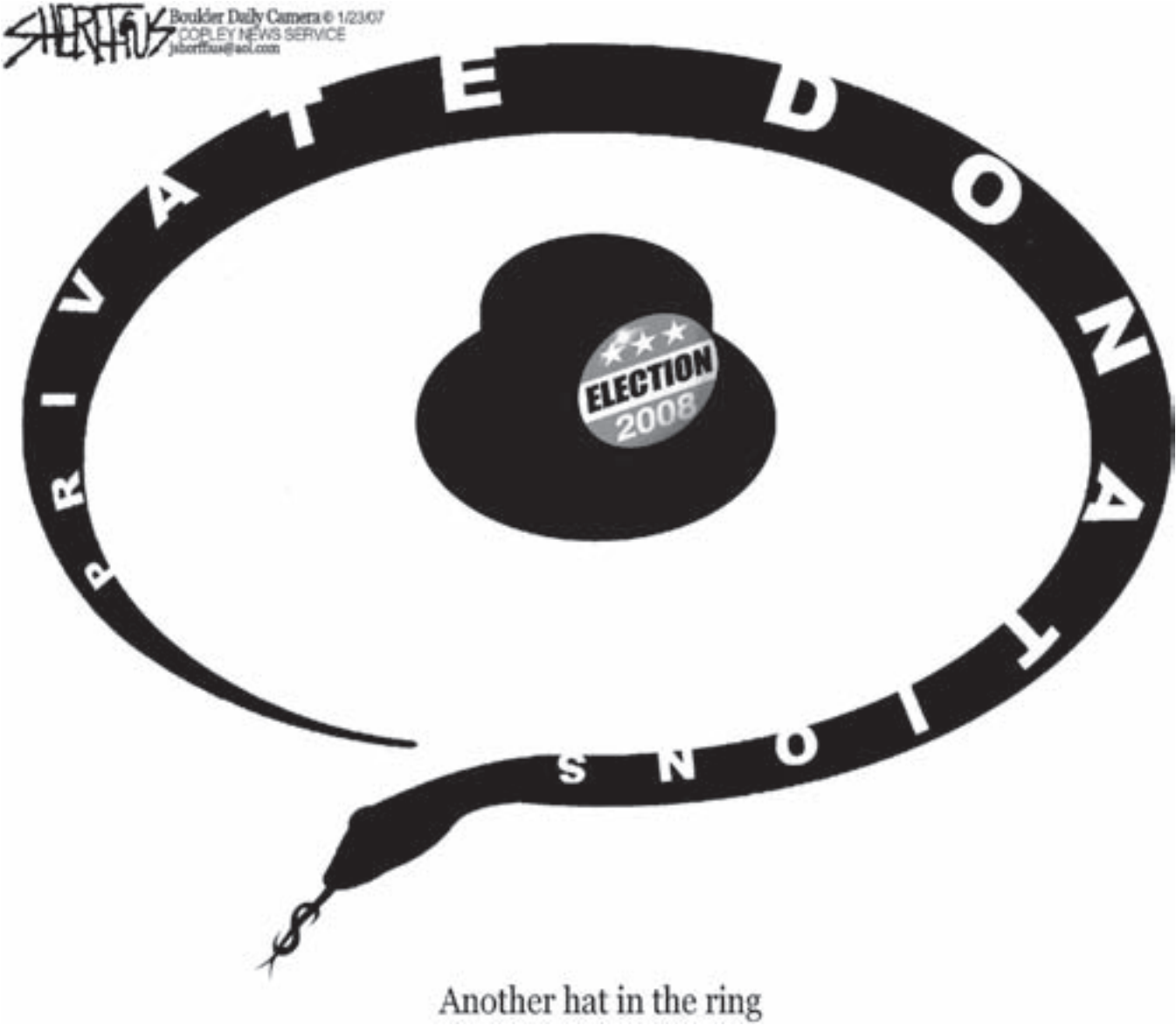
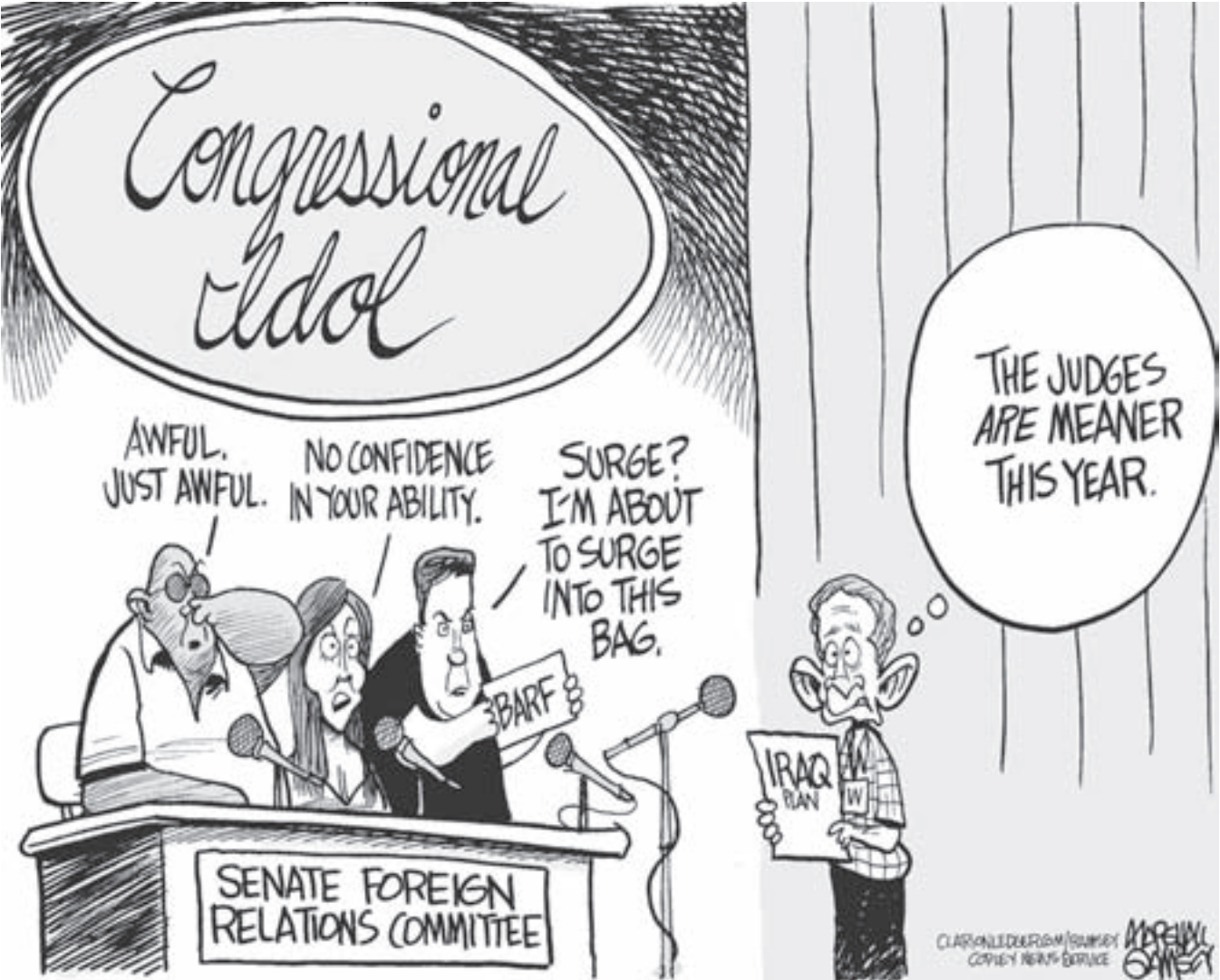
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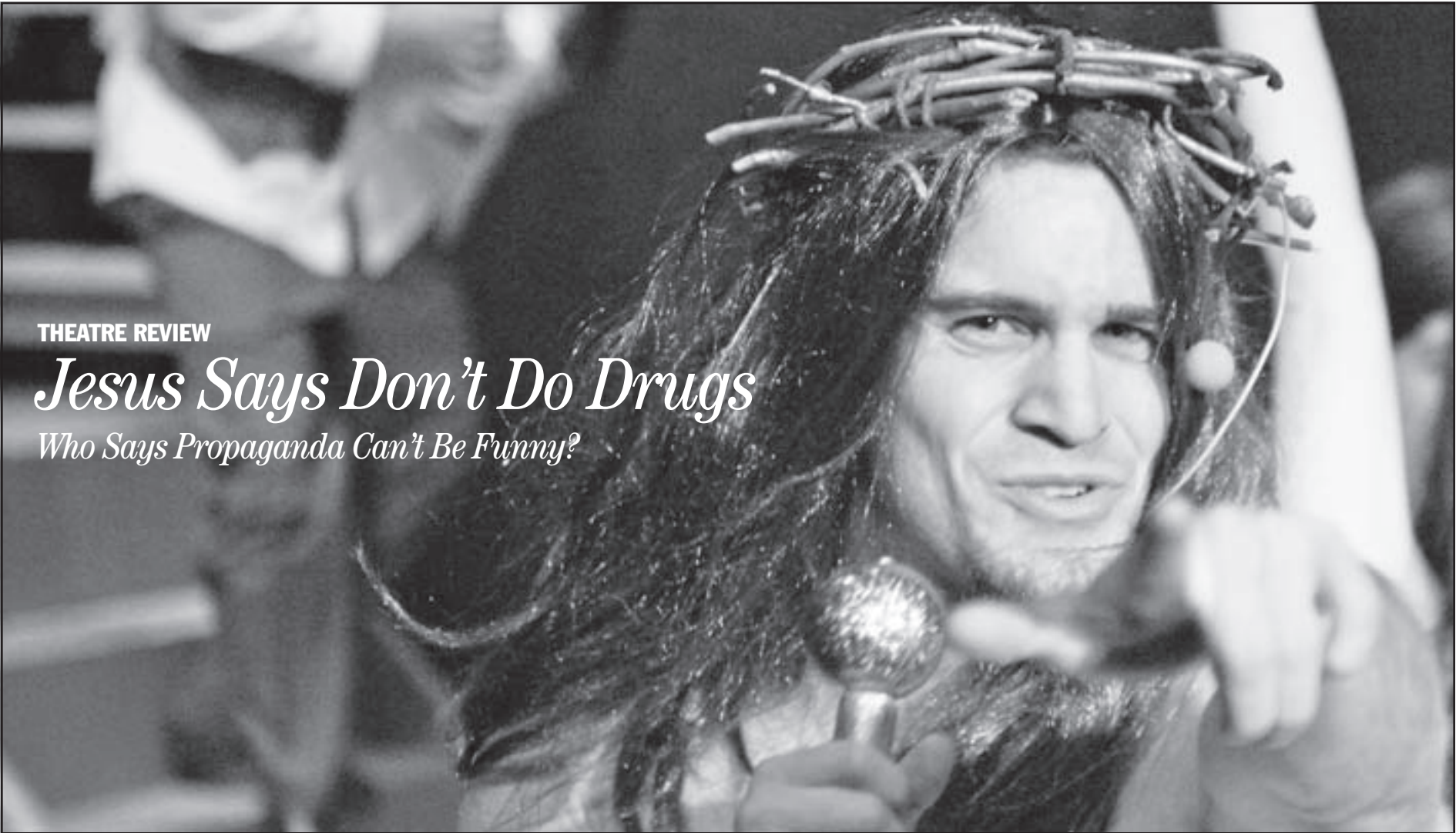
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ARTS



THEATRE REVIEW

Jesus Says Don't Do Drugs
Who Says Propaganda Can't Be Funny?

Jesus (Kenneth N. Kamrin G) warns Jimmy Harper against doing marijuana in the MIT Musical Theatre Guild's production of *Reefer Madness*.

By Jillian Berry
ARTS EDITOR

Reefer Madness
MIT Musical Theatre Guild
Directed by J. Michael Spencer
La Sala de Puerto Rico
Friday – Saturday, Feb. 2-4

Reefer Madness is based on a 1936 movie designed for parents as a cautionary tale about the dangers of marijuana. Full of propaganda, the film was one of the tools used to raise support for the criminalization of marijuana (which was legal in the US until 1937). However, 70 years later, the musical is more of a commentary on the use of propaganda to sway public support on issues present today.

The MIT Musical Theatre Guild's (MTG) performance of *Reefer Madness* is true to its roots as a social commentary, but more importantly, it is entertaining and humorous. The absolutely ludicrous fears and dangers represented to the public are hysterical as they are pointed out by The Lecturer (Darrell D. Cain '08) and the Placard Girl (Jessica K. Wong '10). In particular, the placards were very good at succinctly describing the dangers of marijuana, with statements such as: "Reefer makes you sell your baby for drug money;" "Reefer kills poor old men;" and "Reefer gives you a potty mouth." These comments drew some of the biggest laughs.

To emphasize just how dangerous reefer really is, the Lecturer

tells us the story of Jimmy Harper (Matthew N. Stern '08), a nice 16 year old boy, who wants nothing more than to date the beautiful Mary Lane (Nicolina A. Akrahoff '07). His friend Jack (Daniel A. Perez '10) is a regular Fred Astaire, but alas, also a dealer of the dreaded reefer. When Mary Lane asks the un-coordinated Jimmy to go dancing, Jimmy is easily influenced by Jack to buy marijuana to improve his skills. Sure enough, here begins Jimmy's downward spiral, which drags Mary Lane down too.

The story was interesting, but occasionally slow — gee, it really took Mary Lane a while to notice that her boyfriend was always high. However, MTG should not be blamed for a flaw that has to do more with the script and less with the acting.

In contrast, the music was well done and very entertaining. In particular, the solos were impressive. Cain was great, with a perfectly tuned voice that was deep, powerful, and graceful. Furthermore, Akrahoff's rendition of "Lonely Pew" let her voice shine in this sad song about her spiritual loss of Jimmy. But the person whose solo stole the show was Jesus (Kenneth N. Kamrin G). Though Kamrin's solo was not as technically difficult as Cain's or Akrahoff's, it was by far the liveliest and most entertaining, and it revived the audience from a mid-act slump.

In addition to the soloists, the orchestra, under the musical direction of William J. Andrews '06 (who is also the Campus Life editor for *The Tech*), was impressive. They were always together with each other, as well as the singers, and they successfully filled the air with music while the sets were being changed. In addition, they really got the audience to feel part of the musical as they encouraged us to sing along during one of the last songs of Act I.

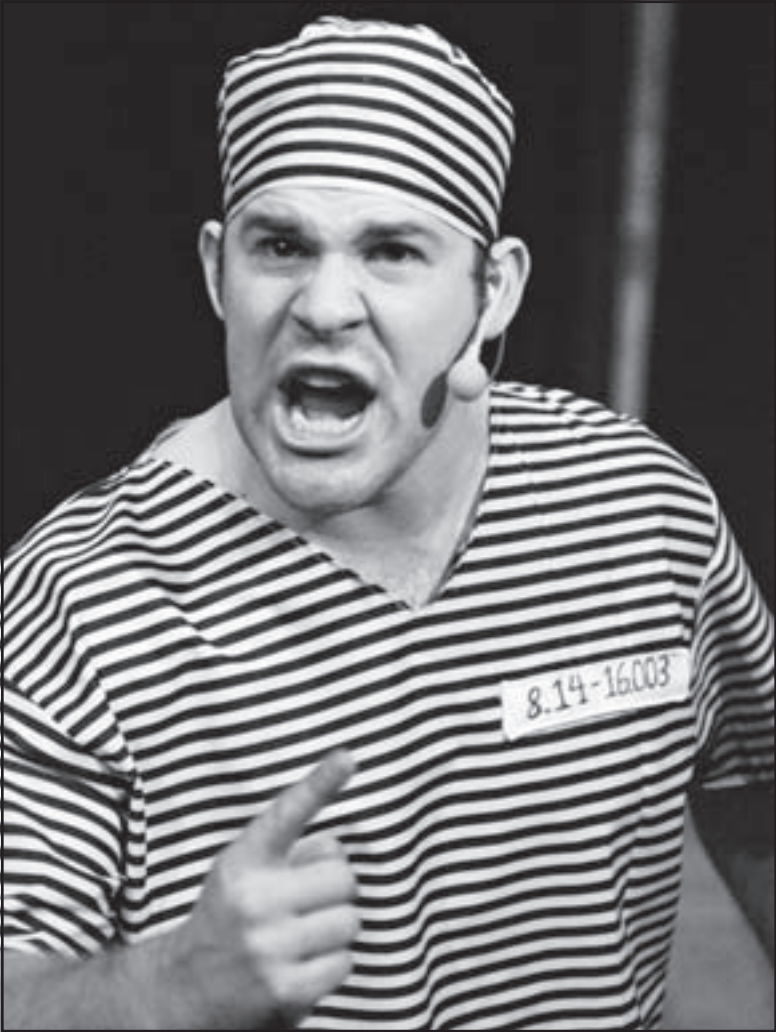
The only flaws in the music really occurred when the whole cast was singing, and there were multiple parts being sung. In songs like these, everything became a bit jumbled, and I was lucky if I could clearly hear what one person was singing, which was really disappointing. However, when the whole cast was singing the same part, they were much more in sync and easier to understand.

Overall, *Reefer Madness* was both entertaining and meaningful. And if there is one thing the Lecturer would like you to take away from the experience, it is this: Don't do drugs!



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Ralph (Carlos Cardenas '09) tricks the unsuspecting Mary Lane (Nicolina A. Akrahoff '07) into trying some reefer.



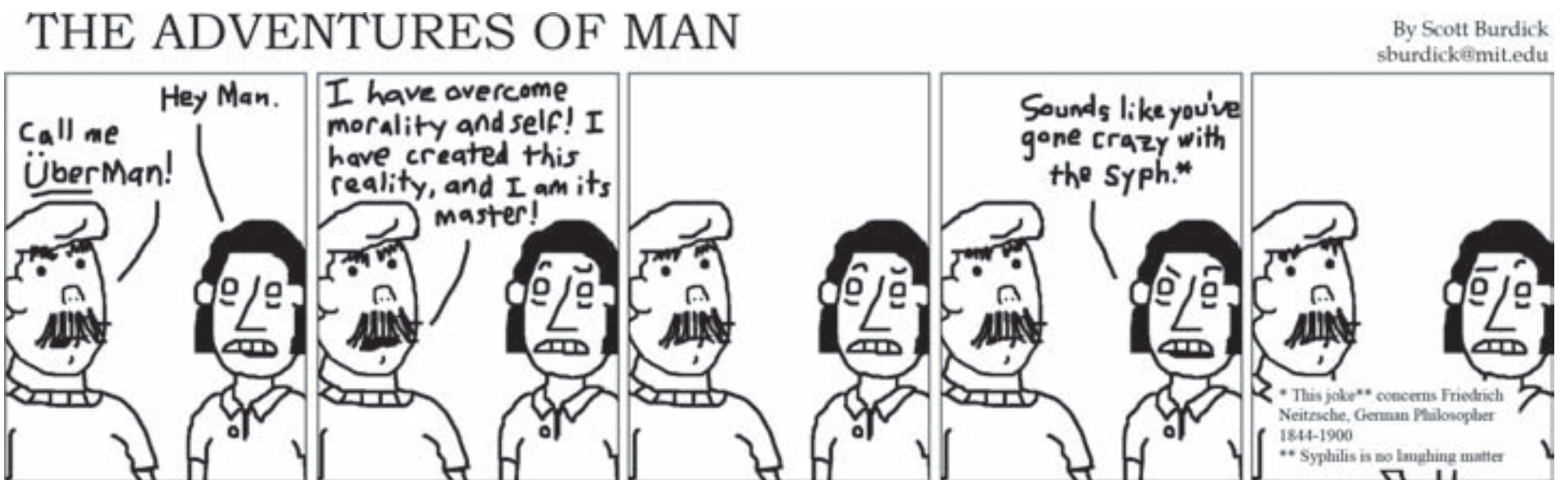
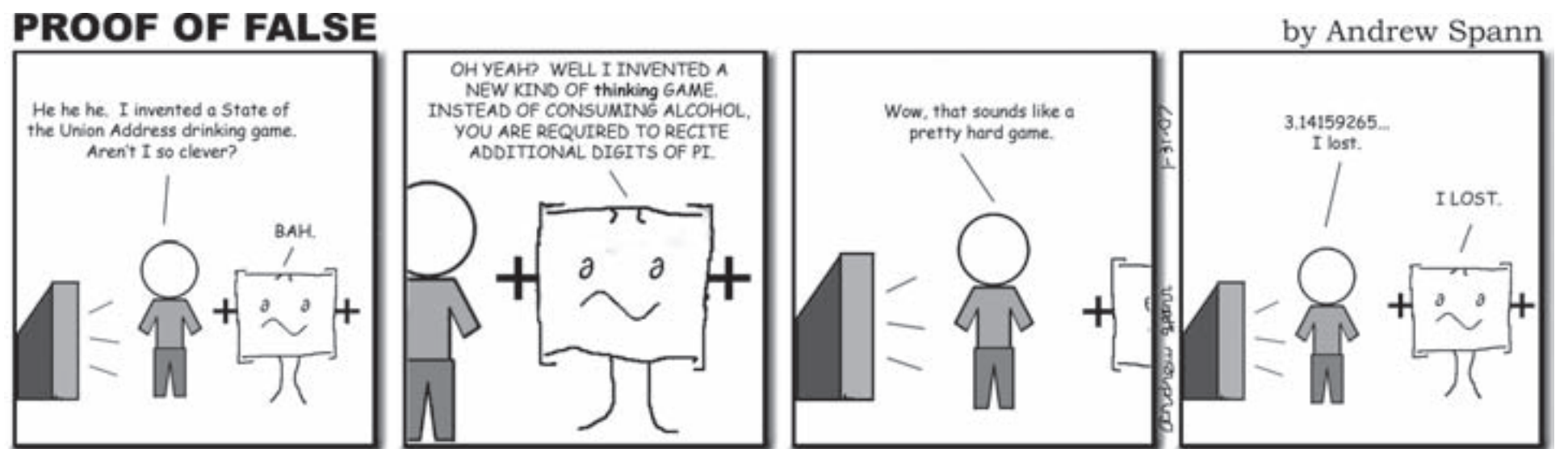
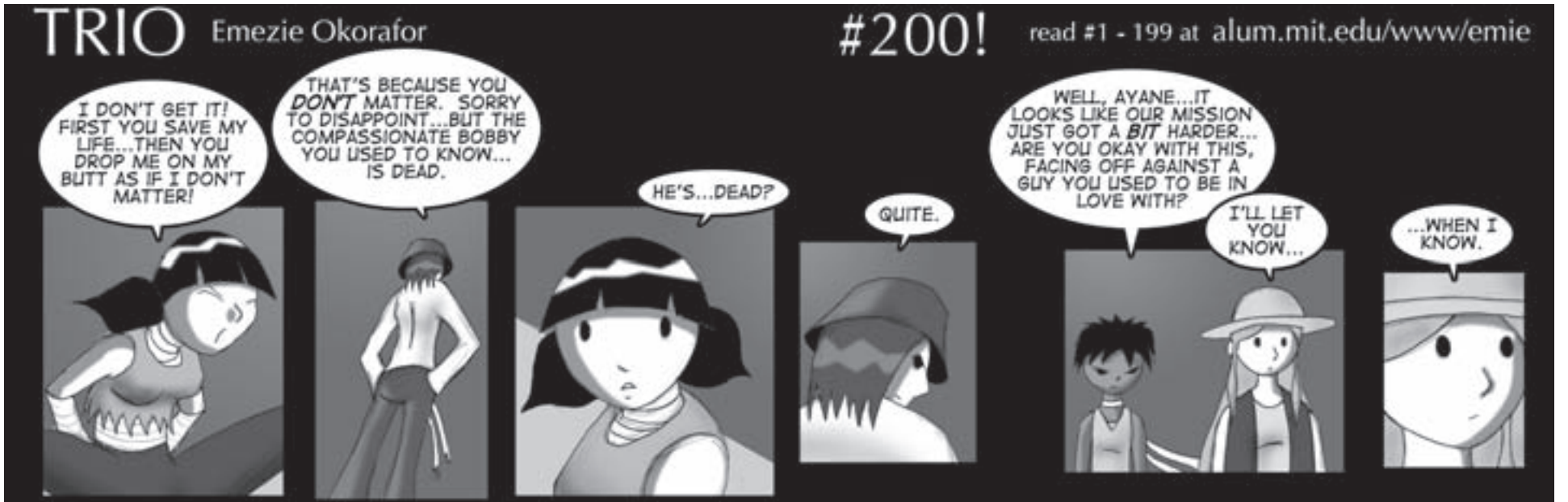
ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Matthew N. Stern '08 plays Jimmy Harper, a young man in the 1930s whose life takes a dive after he gets involved with drugs.



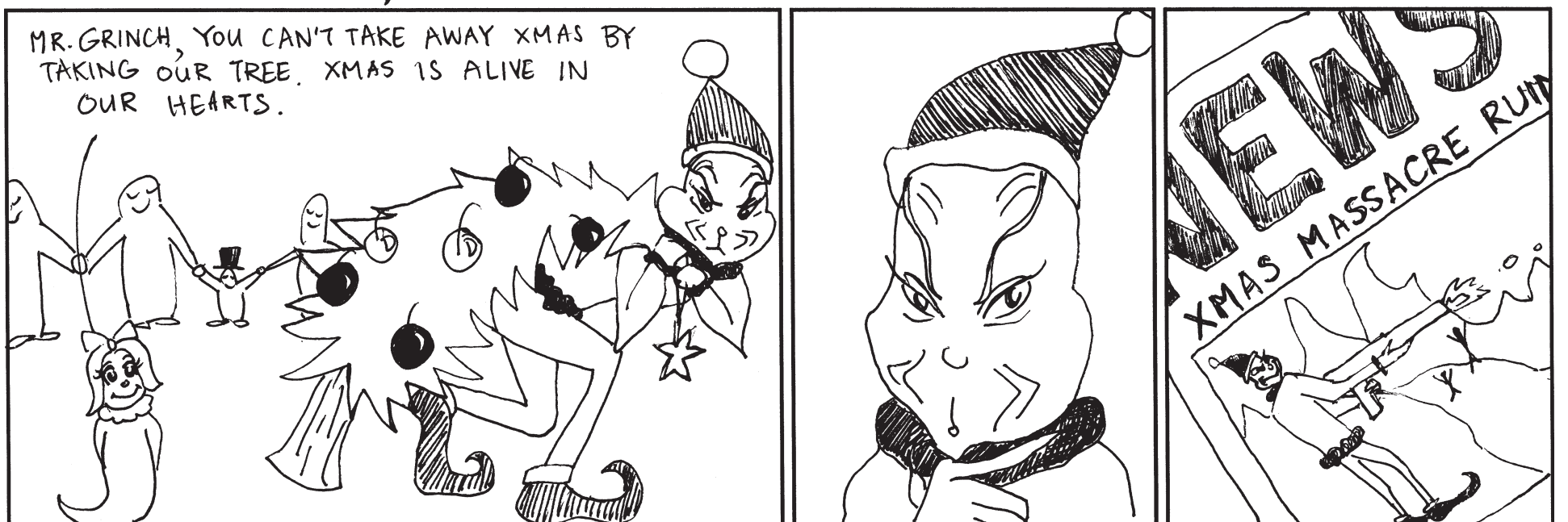
ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Jack (Daniel A. Perez '10) gives Mae (Danbee Kim '09) a talking-to when she objects to the idea of getting the young Jimmy Harper hooked on marijuana.



BIG CLOCK, small hands

By Ali Ghajarnia & Nancy Hua



Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco '04

Hey, you! Yes, you. What are you doing on the roof of the Kresge auditorium?

What does it look like, dude? Making a snow man!

At night? That's weird. Could I take a picture? I might include it in my next book...

Sure! Go ahead...

Flash!

By the way, what's your book's title?

It's the "History of Male Stupidity"

Huh?

Yup!

Will I at least make the frontpage?

I'm not even sure there's room left.

2007-Jan-24

RUNBUG.COM

Some Assembly Required

by Alex Hornstein

So, what's your catch?

What?

Well, you went to the trouble of making a friggin dirigible so you'd have an excuse to ask me out. As awesome as that is, there's gotta be something wierd about you. So, what is it? Closet LARPer? Anime fixation? Robo-porn addiction?

Not really--this just seemed natural to me. Things most people do for fun just seem so... normal.

If you'd said LARPing, I would have jumped.

since you brought it up, do you happen to have any robo-porn?

Simply Geometric

By: Danbee Kim

See if I drop at 9.8m/s², you overeducated hick.

What now?

Shit.

What now?

Shit.

What now?

Shit.

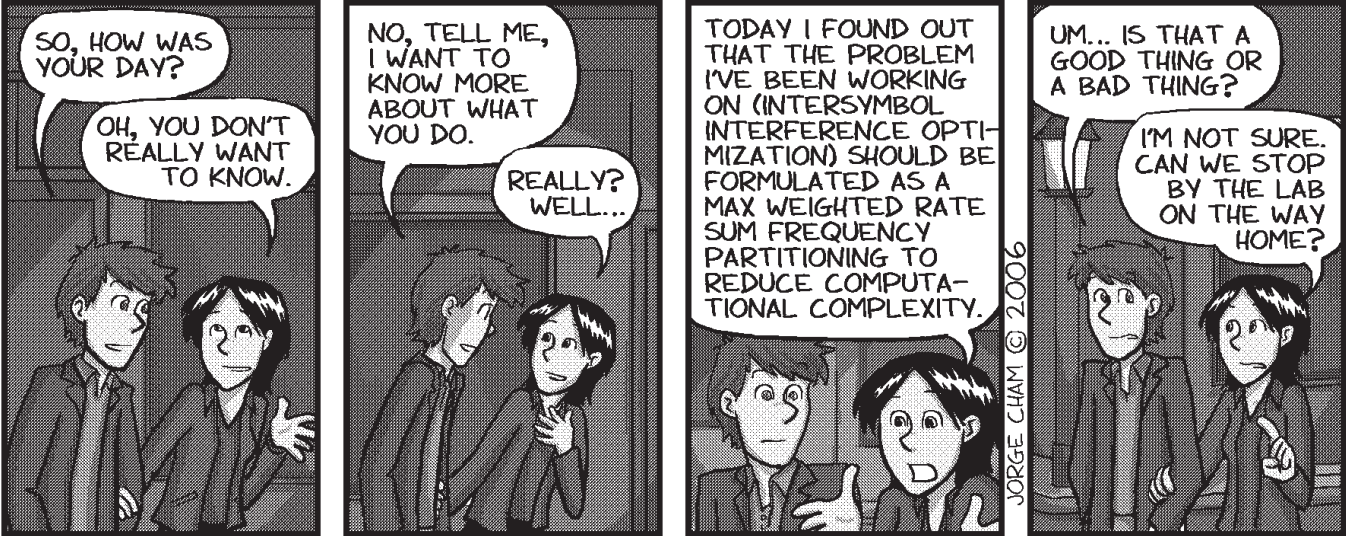
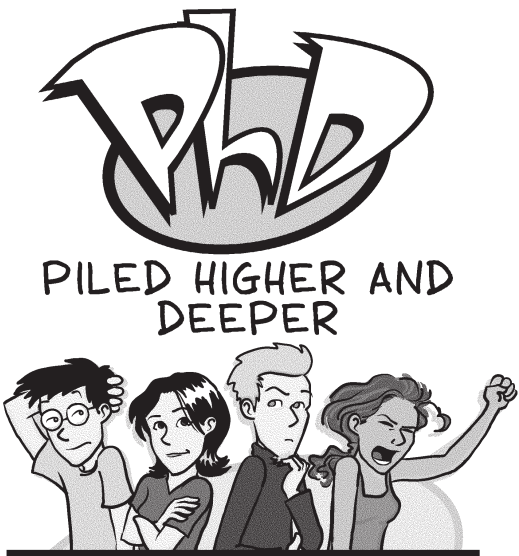
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 11.



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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

9-22

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time. The heroes and villains of the piece; having cooperated in the
creation of a dangerous situation, they came forward handsomely

10

20

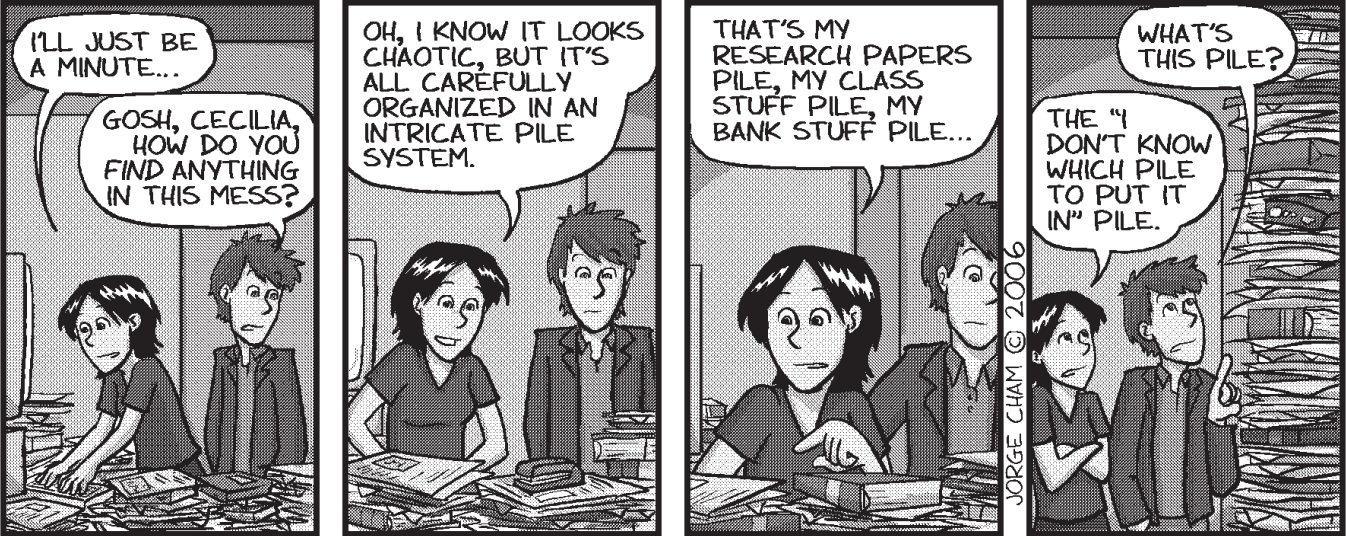
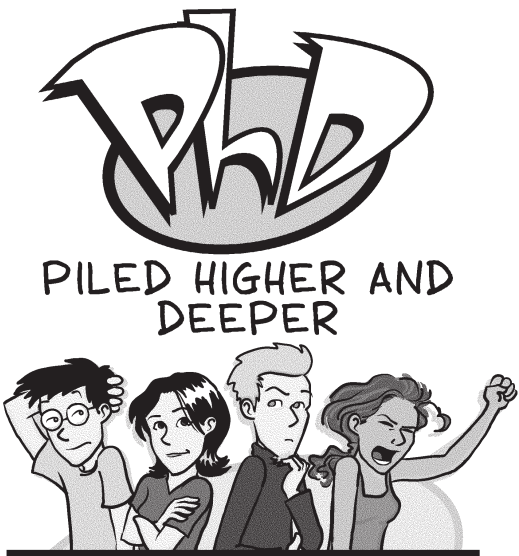
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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13

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2006/2007
47th Annual Program

Date/Location:
Friday, Feb. 2, 2007
Boston University
George Sherman Union
Terrace Lounge
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Morning Session 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- **Michael Lynch**, Cornell University
Dim Echoes of the Science Wars Arising in the Dover, Pennsylvania "Intelligent Design" Trial
- **Peter Dear**, Cornell University
Wars with Imaginary Enemies: Science and the Uses of History
- **Alfred I. Tauber**, Boston University
Reclaiming Science for Philosophy

Afternoon Session 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Joseph Rouse**, Wesleyan University
An Unrecognized Synthesis in Recent Science Studies
- **John Zammito**, Rice University
Naturalism and Science Studies: A rejoinder to Rouse
- **Philip Kitcher**, Columbia University
The Eclipse of Pragmatism

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Registration not required.



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Bartolotta Narrowly Misses Triple-Double

Basketball, from Page 16

Engineers took advantage of the good outside looks they created against the zone defense and stretched the margin back out to 15. The Nighthawks closed the game on a 7-1 run, but the Engineers would hang on for their fourth win in six games.

Bartolotta enjoyed one of the best games of his college career despite not serving as the team's leading scorer. Finishing with 26 points on 7-of-10 shooting, he also hauled in a game-high 10 rebounds and dished out a game-high eight assists. Bartolotta added three steals in the game, while shooting 4 of 5 from three-point range and 8 of 8 at the free-throw line.

Krull led all players with 27 points, including a career-high six three-point field goals. Brandon H. Suarez '09 and Erich W. Bracht '10 chipped in eight points each, while the Engineers shot 57 percent from the floor and finished at 86 percent from the charity stripe.

Honore was virtually unstoppable in the paint for Newbury. The rookie from Medford, MA, scored 20 points on 9-of-10 shooting and added a team-high seven rebounds. Newbury secured 12 steals off 19 MIT turnovers, including five for Steven Morris and four for Cleveland. Morris, who scored 12 points and Arch Mitchell (10) also finished the game in double figures in a losing effort.

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SPORTS

Krull and Bartolotta Score 53, Engineers Beat Newbury 71-62

By James Kramer
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Alexander G. Krull '07 and James M. Bartolotta '09 combined to score 53 points and the Engineers withstood a late rally to beat Newbury College 71-62 in Saturday afternoon's basketball game.

Tech's top scoring tandem answered the Nighthawks' zone defense by connecting on 10 of 14 shots from behind the arc for 30 points, almost half the Engineers' offense.

Freshman Heman Honore scored the first point of the game for Newbury at the free throw-line, but the one-point advantage was the only lead for the Nighthawks all game. Back to back three's by Krull lifted MIT to a 26-15 lead with 7:48 left

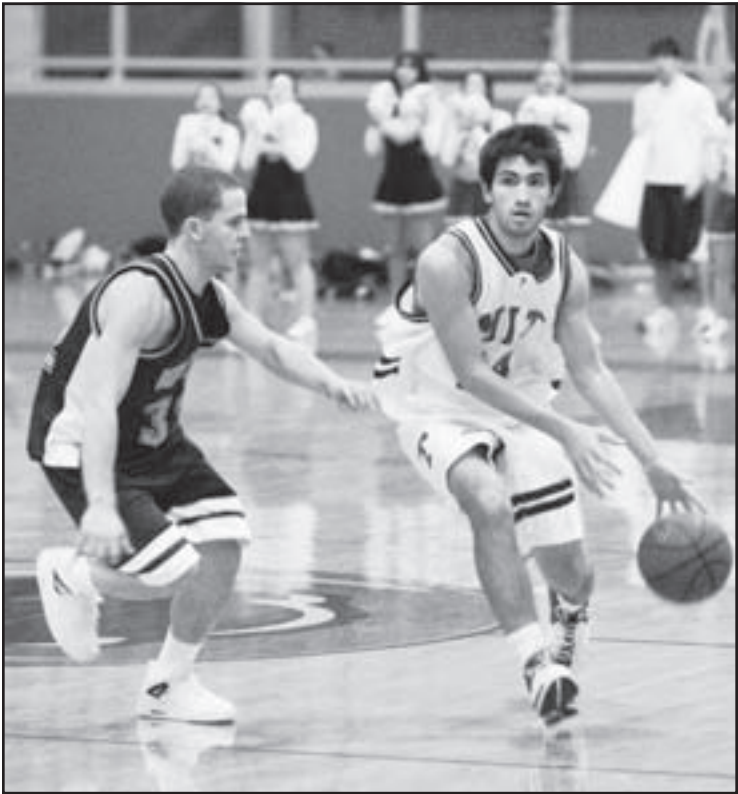
in the first half, while the Engineers responded to a six-point surge from the Nighthawks by ending the half on a 15-7 run. Bartolotta capped the scoring with a deep three at the buzzer as MIT ended the half ahead 41-27.

MIT threatened to blow the game open in the first part of the second half, and after Krull converted a three-point play at 12:58, the Engineers enjoyed their biggest lead of the game at 52-33.

Behind the outstanding post play of Honore, the Nighthawks slowly chipped away at the deficit. After a five-point explosion from Kevin Cleveland, MIT's sizable lead was reduced to 55-49 with eight minutes to go.

Over the next five minutes, the

Basketball, Page 15



Patrick S. Sissman '10 dribbles past Newbury College's pressure defense, which forced 19 turnovers on Saturday in a 71-62 MIT win.



Mary P. Harding '07 handles the puck during the women's ice hockey team's 4-2 victory over Plymouth State University on Saturday.

Women's Hockey Scores Twice in Third Period, Beats Plymouth 4-2

By Mindy Brauer
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

A pair of third-period goals propelled MIT to a 4-2 victory over Plymouth State University in a non-conference women's ice hockey game on Saturday.

Mary P. Harding '07 registered a game-high three points for the Engineers (4-11-0), while four different players recorded a point for the Panthers (0-11-0).

Plymouth State opened the scoring with 6:42 remaining in the first period when Kristen Leach connected on a feed from Julie Robida for a power-play goal. MIT evened the

contest less than three minutes later with an unassisted tally by Raffaella L. Wakeman '08.

The score remained unchanged until late in the second period when the Panthers posted another power-play goal to regain the lead. Amanda Kreamer converted a pass by Alyssa Hovanec for the goal at 16:14. A checking penalty assessed to Plymouth State a minute later led to the tying goal for the Engineers. Harding found Stephanie V. Brenman '09 for the score 32 seconds into the power play.

MIT carried the momentum into the final period, tallying both of its scores in the first six minutes. Amanda P. Hunter '07 and Harding

collaborated in setting up Kelcie A. Abraham '10 for the eventual game-winning goal at 4:15. Hunter then added an insurance score less than two minutes later on a pass by Harding.

In net, Maria N. Prus '10 picked up five saves in two periods for MIT. Julia N. Roberts '10 earned the win in her first appearance by stopping all eight shots she faced to close out the game. For Plymouth State, Lindsay DeLorie collected 63 saves in the loss.

MIT returns to Eastern College Athletic Conference East action on Friday, February. 9 when it will host the University of Massachusetts, Boston at the Johnson Ice Arena.

Men's Hockey Demolishes Springfield, Spreads 10 Scores Among 9 Players

By Jeff Lemieux
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Nine different Engineers combined for ten goals as MIT (9-2-1) cruised to a 10-2 victory over Springfield College (3-6-0) in NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association action on Saturday night at the Johnson Ice Rink.

The diversity in scoring was the most MIT has had in a single game since the last time it had nine different goal scorers and 15 players with points in a 12-3 victory over Coast Guard in 2003.

Amazingly, of the nine different MIT goal scorers, four tallied their first of the season on Saturday night. Christopher M. Bukowski '09 netted his first of the year, while William G. Near '10, Ian M. Rousseau '10 and Joseph M. Fahey '10 all scored the first goals of their collegiate careers. Impressively, Bukowski and Rousseau also added an assist and Near added two.

At the other end of the experience spectrum, Jeremy B. Gordon

G was a veteran Engineer who had a breakout game. The Verona, N.J., native entered the contest with two points on one goal and one assist, but he would more than double his season point total by providing three assists on the night.

MIT scored the first goal of the game just over three minutes into the contest and never looked back. Timothy E. Studley '07 was the man to break the ice, finishing feeds from Brian A. LaCrosse '07 and Dustin P. Kendrick '10. Ryan W. Ballentine '09 added an unassisted shorthanded goal later in the period for the 2-0 lead.

Following a scoreless first 14 minutes of the second period, the Engineers exploded for a remarkable six goals in under six minutes. Incredibly, Tech's lead jumped from 2-0 to 8-0 in a span of 5:36.

Michael C. Kozlowski '08, MIT's only multiple goal scorer, picked up both of his in the second period, while John J. Bergin G added a tally of his own. Rousseau, Fahey and Bukowski all grabbed their first of the season in the frantic stretch,

while Studley, Brad T. Holschuh '07, Stephen T. Payne '08, Edward J. Sturm '08 and goaltender Adam J. Miller '07 all picked up assists.

The Pride finally got on the scoreboard in the third, as Matt Morneau took a feed from senior Jeff DuBois and found the back of the net to make it 8-1. However, the Engineers responded through Near (from Payne) less than a minute later to restore the eight goal lead.

Springfield would score again at 16:19 as Peter Zielbauer scored shorthanded from a Kyle Hicks assist, but once again MIT had an answer less than 60 seconds later. It was Payne, tallying his second of the season, who finished the scoring.

In addition to his assist, Miller made 21 saves in net to earn his first victory of the season in his first start. He had previously played just 12 minutes in a relief appearance. Springfield's Rich Krug, despite making 50 saves, took the loss.

The Engineers will return to action today when they host the University of Connecticut at 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, January 31

Men's Hockey vs. University of Connecticut

7:30 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

Friday, February 2

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, MIT Invitational

6:30 p.m., Zesiger Center

Saturday, February 3

Pistol vs. Navy

9:00 a.m., duPont Athletic Center

Men's Basketball vs. Coast Guard

1:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Women's Gymnastics vs. Brown and Boston University

1:00 p.m., duPont Athletic Center

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, MIT Invitational

1:00 p.m., Zesiger Center

Women's Basketball vs. Clark

3:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Sunday, February 4

Pistol vs. Navy

9:00 a.m., duPont Athletic Center

Men's and Women's Fencing, MIT/Brandeis Invitational

9:00 p.m., duPont Athletic Center

Men's Gymnastics Surprises No. 18 James Madison, Finishes Sixth

By Jeff Lemieux
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

MIT's men's gymnastics team opened its season with a sixth place finish out of the seven teams at the 16th Annual West Point Open, hosted by Army, this past weekend at the Christl Arena.

As an unranked team facing six teams in the nation's top 25, the En-

gineers exceeded expectations by placing ahead of No. 18 James Madison University.

Penn State University, ranked No. 2 nationally, easily defended its title for the 10th straight year with a winning score of 214.70, almost five points ahead of No. 9 Temple University, which claimed the runner-up spot with a 199.50 composite. Host Army, No. 10 in the national rankings, was next (197.75)

followed by No. 14 Navy (190.25), No. 16 Springfield College (185.0), unranked MIT (174.10) and No. 18 James Madison (162.15).

The Nittany Lions took the crown in style, winning five of the six team events and claiming four individual victories, including the all-around competition by Matt Cohen (51.250).

Boris Rasin '09 was Tech's top performer, finishing 15th in the all-

around with a score of 45.400. The Brookline, MA. native's 8.300 on the floor exercise was his personal best for the competition as well as MIT's highest score in any event, while his mark of 7.800 on the parallel bars was good enough for 22nd, his highest individual finish of the evening.

Joshua S. Coblenz '08 wasn't far behind, turning in a 43.500 all-around score, placing him 19th overall. His

8.100 on the floor exercise was his most impressive performance of the competition.

Bradley J. Sutton '07 (42.100) and sophomore Thomas S. Caldwell '09 (41.800) finished 25th and 26th, respectively, in a field of 99 gymnasts.

MIT will return to action on Saturday, Feb. 10, when it travels to the University of Illinois at Chicago for a 7:00 p.m. meet.



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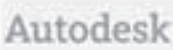
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Colbert Defines Role As Dean, Builds Ties With Grad Students

Colbert, from Page 1

part of Colbert's plan for community is infrastructure, exemplified in programs like the \$100,000 Graduate Student Life Grants and the eight-week maternity leave policy. Colbert said he also plans an intellectual component, a "common intellectual experience" for graduate students which he did not clearly define.

For administrators, graduate community has tangible benefits; students who feel a strong connection to the Institute are more likely to care about MIT after they graduate. Colbert said that, though "obviously we want alumni to give," he considers more valuable the possibility that alumni will offer support through mentoring, internships, or informal advising.

Colbert said his most important accomplishment has been developing a rapport with the Graduate Student Council. In an e-mail interview, GSC President Eric G. Weese G called Colbert "a tireless advocate." He "caused MIT to think more seriously about graduate student life," wrote Weese, and his successor should "continue to work closely with graduate students."

While working with students is essential to Colbert's job, the nature of this interaction sometimes changes. In 2004, he and Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict orchestrated the temporary closure of the Thirsty Ear pub because it did not have sufficient oversight. "We put it on the fire and we pulled it off," said Colbert, adding that his philosophy is that "if this is a resource that the graduate community really wants, then they'll take action."

Institute Chaplain Robert M. Randolph said Colbert has "pushed consistently and constantly for the structures to support graduate community." But in the process, the GSO has also evolved into "an all-purpose office," said Randolph. As a result, the graduate students' advocate within the administration also enforces the rules governing students.

In handling the routine interpretation of rules about tuition, stipends, registration, and degree requirements, Colbert said he is on students' side. Much of the job involves navigation of the rivers of bureaucracy surrounding MIT's numerous departments.

Ultimately his job is to "creatively use policy to get things done," Colbert said — which sometimes means that "policy that's bent in this office stays in this office."

Part of this interpretation involves making sure that graduate students will graduate; Colbert personally r views the grade reports of all graduate students, requiring departmental review of those with problematic grades or who have been at MIT for too long (more than about eighteen consecutive terms).

The dean also has more direct ties to student life; Colbert said he spends "more time than I ever imagined or would have wanted" on mental health issues, talking to students who are depressed or overwhelmed by the pressure of graduate school. Colbert described as "one of my

proudest moments" a time when he helped a student "on the brink" to overcome his personal obstacles and get his PhD.

The paradox of lobbying for graduate students while also regulating them does not seem to faze Colbert. He said his position contains "a tension that I think creates a lot of positive energy." But at the same time, it is unclear how much of Colbert's job will be fulfilled by his successor. "I have defined the role," Colbert said.

What is expected of a new Dean for Graduate Students will be defined in part by the report of a search committee appointed to replace Colbert. Chancellor Phillip L. Clay said the committee will first issue a report on the state of the Graduate Students Office, then will assemble a list of three to six candidates chosen from among senior MIT faculty. From these candidates, Clay will recommend a new dean to President Susan Hockfield — who was, at Yale, once the dean of a graduate school herself.

The search committee contains one graduate student, to be appointed by the GSC. "We're very concerned about effective communication between students and the administration, and only having one student member might be somewhat limiting," Weese said.

Clay said the new dean will be expected to "continue the community-building" that Colbert is known for, in particular by building close relationships with faculty as well as students. Because of the esoteric nature of Institute politics, only candidates from within MIT will be considered, Clay said. Moreover, the new dean will likely be a well-established senior faculty member — Colbert, who has worked at MIT since 1977, was a 22-year veteran when appointed to the deanship in 1999.

Colbert said he has stayed at the Institute this long because there has "always been something challenging and exciting" to do, but that he's planned for a long time to retire at his current age of 60. (Clay said Colbert's retirement has been "an open secret" for the past two years.) After June 30, Colbert will move on to work with two separate startups; but for now, he is still MIT's acting Dean for Graduate Students.

"We owe our graduate students an experience that's second to none," Colbert said.

Alumna Known as Accomplished, Amiable; Memorial Service Today

Zhou, from Page 1

ways having a "sympathetic ear."

People were drawn to her not because of her academic success, but "because of her sympathy her smiling, her maturity, her way of dealing with people," said Zhou's colleague and classmate at Stanford, Fernando Gomez Pancorbo.

A member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Zhou graduated from MIT with an SB and MEng in Computer Science in 2004 and 2005, respectively. Known as a stellar student, Zhou went on to pursue a PhD in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University, where she was awarded the prestigious Gabilan Fellowship. According to records from the US Patent and Trademark Office, Zhou, in collaboration with QUALCOMM Inc., had applied

for at least three patents on camera phone technology.

Although police have said her cause of death is likely to have been suicide, those who were close to Zhou say they find this explanation difficult to believe.

According to Gomez Pancorbo, most people in the EE department have problems that "are either academic, funding related, or advisor related," none of which concerned Zhou. Indeed, thanks to her fellowship, Zhou had funding available for 12 quarters; she was sought after by multiple professors who wanted her in their research group, he said.

Zhou's exceptionality was apparent at a young age. As a student in La Jolla High School in California, she had many friends, not only because she was kind, but also because she knew everything, said her fa-

ther, Yitong Zhou. She was "smart, good-looking, and always working hard," her father remembered.

Zhou also had a competitive instinct, always wanting to be the best in what she did, her father said. She did "everything," was never afraid, and liked to work very hard, he continued. Also, according to her father, she was very organized, writing down what she needed to do and checking it off once she completed it.

"She enjoyed life very much," said Yitong Zhou, adding that during her spare time, she enjoyed watching TV and movies. About her time at MIT, her father said that "she was really happy there."

Zhou is survived by her parents and younger sister. A memorial will be held for Zhou tonight at 9 p.m. in the MIT chapel.



On Jan. 27 an Amtrak train hit a passenger vehicle on the tracks crossing Mass. Ave. just north of Vassar St. There were no major injuries; however, one person was taken to the hospital to be examined.

20.104 Chemicals in the Environment: Epidemiology, Toxicology and Public Health

(Same subject as 1.081, ESD.053J)

William G. Thilly and Robert McCunney

thilly@mit.edu

mccunney@mit.edu

Prereq: 5.112 or 3.091, 7.01x
Units: 4-0-8
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday T3-5 (56-180)

Relationships between exposure to occupational and environmental chemicals and radiation and risk of human disease. Analysis of U.S. historical data to delimit the historical timing of changes in environmental risk. Analysis of statewide community data to explore the concept of local environmental risks. Basic biochemistry and population genetics of inherited risk factors in drug metabolism, DNA repair and tumor suppression. Potential role of exogenous agents in tumor initiation and/or stimulation of pre-cancerous growth. **New this spring:** a series of occupational case studies presented by the former president of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and editor of the text "A Practical Approach to Occupational and Environmental Medicine".

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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Bill Proposes Giving Grads Money to Stay

By Maria Cramer
THE BOSTON GLOBE

As Massachusetts leaders struggle to find ways to stem an exodus of young people from the state, one legislator thinks he has hit upon a solution — give them money to stay.

State Senator Brian A. Joyce, a Milton Democrat, this month filed legislation that would provide any graduate of a Bay State college \$10,000 for a down payment on a house or condo. Joyce hopes the payment would soften the blow from the high cost of living and might persuade some graduates to stay and raise families here.

The stipend would go to anyone who graduated from a state-accredited post secondary school, vocational-technical program, or apprentice program in the last 10 years. The catch: The recipient would have to agree to stay in Massachusetts for at least five years, or repay the money with interest. Also, the graduate's yearly salary could not exceed 135 percent of the community's median income.

While \$10,000 might seem like a lot of money, it may not be enough to entice college-educated twentysomethings filled with wanderlust and dreams that would take them far from Massachusetts. The response from college campuses in Boston was decidedly mixed.

"If I had the opportunity to go somewhere else, I would," said Apollo Payton, 21, who plans to graduate from Northeastern University next year, and wants a career in music production and performance. "I've lived here a long time. I want to see some new scenery."

During 2004, about 65,000 people with college or post graduate degrees left the state, compared with 48,000 who moved into it, according to a report by the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth. In 2004, more people between the ages of 25 and 34 left Massachusetts than arrived, the study by the independent, nonpartisan think tank said. Policy-makers fear that the numbers represent an exodus that would strip the state of its educated work force and damage its economic future.

Joyce proposes that the state set aside an initial \$25 million for the program, and then see how many graduates sign up and how effective the stipends are.

The program would be unusual,

although other states have pushed tax breaks for younger people or for businesses that hire them. Vermont Governor Jim Douglas recently recommended the Legislature offer scholarships to residents who attend college in the state.

It is unclear how Joyce's proposal will fare in the Legislature. Senate President Robert E. Travaglini and House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi both declined to comment, with spokeswomen saying it was because the bill has not been debated by the Joint Committee on Housing and Urban Development. Joyce was the panel's co chairman last session and expects to be reappointed.

Some economists said throwing money at college graduates is not enough to keep young professionals here, and suggested the Legislature should also focus on creating more jobs, providing more affordable housing, and lowering taxes.

"That program by itself would be marginal in its impact," said Andrew Sum, director for the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University.

Still, some college students in Boston said the idea is inspired.

"It sounds too good to be true," said Meredith Stanford, a 23-year-old Northeastern senior who plans to become a nurse and hopes to stay in the state after she graduates. "I'd be up for it."

Others, however, said the money would not be enough to keep them here.

"Maybe if it were a bit more," said Krish Mirchandani, 20, a Boston University junior who plans to return to Mumbai, India, after graduation. "Ten-thousand dollars doesn't make much of a dent when the price of property is so high."

Shveta Kumra, another BU junior, said she is glad legislators are acknowledging the state's high cost of living for young people, and called the stipend "a pretty good bribe."

But she said she did not want to be confined to Massachusetts for half a decade just to save money on a house.

"I mean, five years is binding," said Kumra, a 20-year-old marketing major who sees more job opportunities in her native New York. "If I wanted to save money, I would just move back home."

Laptop Projects Provoke Conflict

By John Markoff
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

Here in the Swiss mountains at the World Economic Forum, the annual conclave of world leaders, concerns over a growing digital divide this year have taken a back seat to the challenge of climate change.

Being out of the limelight, however, has not dimmed passions over what the best way is to deploy computers in the developing world. The controversy boiled over on Saturday at a breakfast meeting here where Craig R. Barrett, the chairman of Intel, squared off with Nicholas P. Negroponte '66, the former director of the MIT Media Laboratory, whose nonprofit organization One Laptop Per Child is trying to develop a low-cost computer for the 1.2 billion children in the developing world. His prototype XO computer is designed to sell for \$100 by the end of 2008.

Intel has also contributed significant resources to the cause, including its own design for an inexpensive laptop computer, albeit one that is currently more expensive than Mr. Negroponte's.

But Mr. Negroponte suggested that Intel executives had engaged in a campaign to discourage world leaders from committing to purchasing his laptop systems. Mr. Negroponte also accused Intel of marketing its strategy to the developing world.

"Craig and I sometimes argue, and he called our thing a 'gadget,'" Mr. Negroponte said, referring to the XO. "I'm glad to see he's got his own gadget now. Craig has to look at this as a market, and I look at this as a mission."

Other executives suggested the dispute was doing little to forge a common strategy to use computing to advance economic and educational development.

Mr. Negroponte, who has quarreled publicly with both Microsoft and Intel executives in his quest to give simple portable machines to hundreds of millions of children, has long been known for his iconoclastic positions on economic development and education.

Recently at the Digital, Life, Design conference in Munich, he introduced himself as the "good bin Laden" — a reference to the notion that his low-cost laptop is terrorizing some companies in the computer industry because of the possibility that it will transform markets for personal computers in the developing world.

Made possible by the Council for the Arts at MIT

Free tickets for MIT Students!

Boston Secession: Friday, February 2, 2007 @ 8:00pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, Margaret Jewett Hall, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

"(Un)Lucky in Love"

Boston Secession continues its tenth anniversary season with "(Un)Lucky in Love," the ensemble's alternative Valentine program. According to artistic director Jane Ring Frank, the program is designed to "add a little tongue-in-cheek bitter to balance out the icky sweetness normally associated with Valentines" by featuring the jaded and darkly humorous love songs of artists as wide ranging as Joni Mitchell, cabaret classics composer William Bolcom, the opera masters Mozart and Donizetti and 20th century greats Benjamin Britten and Peter Schickele.

Boston Chamber Music Society: Sunday, February 4, 2007 @ 7:30pm

Sanders Theater, Memorial Hall, Harvard University, 45 Quincy Street, Harvard Square

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Elliott Carter | <i>Cello Sonata</i> (1948) |
| Bartók | <i>Contrasts, Op. 116</i> |
| Mendelssohn | <i>Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 49</i> |

**2 Tickets per valid MIT Student ID
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May
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reporter.

Duelers Impress Students With Stunts Numerical, Philosophical

∞, from Page 1

humor, maintaining only a ban on the use of infinity, and restricting statements about the number proposed to a primitive semantic vocabulary. The battle itself was intense and the room in the Dreyfoos wing of the Stata Center was packed, with people standing on chairs and at least 20 students craning their necks from the doorway.

The contest opened in the style of a boxing match, with competitors presented “in the red corner” and “in the blue corner.” Elga went first, writing the number one. “Ha!” announced Rayo, as he countered with a string of ones across the board. Elga retaliated with a clever trick, erasing a line through the base of half of the ones to turn them into factorials.

As the battle continued, the contestants began defining their own functions. Moments into their definitions, a student raised her hand and asked Elga if the operation he had written on the board was even

computable. Elga cleared his throat, smiled and succinctly replied, “No.”

Functions became more and more complicated, at one point prompting the announcer to proclaim, “It looks like there are words in your number.”

Near the end of the duel, Rayo furiously scribbled on the whiteboard: “The smallest number bigger than any number that can be named by an expression in the language of first order set-theory with less than a googol (10^{100}) symbols.”

Although this definition took a bit of tweaking, including what Rayo described as his “second order logic trick,” it soon won him the duel.

As Elga collapsed, slain, the referee closed the ceremony. “It was a great game,” Elga said. “Heated at times, but nevertheless, a really great game.”

After the battle, when asked if he thought he set the Guinness record, Dr. Rayo said “It’s hard to be sure, but the number is bigger than any number I have ever seen.”

Although it is unclear whether the competitors succeeded in setting a new record, they did succeed in entertaining audience members with their antics.

“My favorite part of the battle was, I have to say, the melodramatics of the two competitors,” Smith said. “They played up their toil. At one point, the MIT contestant walked away and leaned his head against the wall in shame. The referee started to count down, and then the contestant turned around and said “wait a minute!” and then turned back and forth as he attempted to figure out whether he could truly write a larger number.”

Despite the fact that his large number led him to victory against his graduate school friend Elga, Rayo said in an interview after the game that his favorite number is 19. “It has to be prime, of course,” he said matter-of-factly.

Staff Reporter Nick Semenkovich contributed to the reporting of this article.

Activist Professor Dies of Cancer

Meyer, from Page 1

A researcher with a wide range of interests, Meyer concentrated on arms control, Soviet military programs and weapons technology when he first joined the MIT faculty in 1980. In 1984, he published his first book, “The Dynamics of Nuclear Proliferation” (University of Chicago Press).

More recently, he turned his attention to environmental issues, publishing “Environmental Protection and Economic Prosperity” (MIT Press) in 2004. In September Meyer published “The End of the Wild” (Boston Review), a call to action to preserve what is left of species biodiversity, including the creation of trans-regional “meta-reserves.” The book strikes a somber note, arguing that “the extinction crisis” — the race to save the composition, structure and organization of biodiversity as it exists today — is over, and we have lost.”

Meyer received his MA and PhD in political science from the University of Michigan. He joined MIT as an assistant professor in 1980 and earned tenure in 1990. In 1997, he became a faculty associate with the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine.

Meyer also worked in a wide range of non-academic positions, beginning in the 1980s as a consultant to the RAND Corporation and the U.S. government. From 1992 to 1993, he was the principal investigator for the National Council on Soviet and East European Studies. In the late 1990s, he served on committees of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. In 2002 he became a principal investigator of the National Science Foundation in the area of dynamics of community-based environmental protection. In 2005 he was awarded the Francis W. Sargent Conservation Award by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

In 2004, Meyer was honored with the Arthur C. Smith Award, which is given to MIT faculty members for

meaningful contributions and devotion to undergraduate student life at MIT.

Meyer also served on the board of advisors of Advocates for the Future from 1999 to 2002, the editorial board of International Studies Quarterly from 1990 to 1996, and the Committee on Science, Arms Control and National Security of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from 1989 to 1992. He was an adjunct research fellow at the Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University from 1980 to 1995.

Meyer, a resident of Sudbury, is the author of numerous journal articles, research papers and book chapters on issues of arms control and the environment. His MIT activities ranged from a seat on the MIT ROTC Committee from 1987 to 1991 to a position on the executive committee of the Center for International Studies from 1988 to 1995.

In September, even while struggling with cancer, Meyer agreed to write an essay about the issues he explored in “The End of the Wild” for the Boston Globe, using speech-

to-text software because, as he told the Globe editors, his hands were paralyzed. In an e-mail to editors, published by the Globe on Sept. 3, Meyer wrote, “This will undoubtedly be the last article I ever publish and I’m happy about the message it carries.”

In the article, Meyer concluded: “The global biodiversity collapse underway is unstoppable. Yet we can influence how it plays out in our own backyards. Obviously we should protect ourselves from insect-borne disease. But our solutions must be effective, and we must thoroughly examine the consequences. This means becoming more aware of the diversity of life sharing space with us and how our individual actions matter. It would be a shame if fireflies, spring peepers and lady slippers become mere museum displays to our grandchildren.”

Meyer is survived by his wife, Deborah M. Dineen; a son, Seth Meyer; his parents, Harvey and Rebecca Meyer of Worcester; a brother, Kenneth Meyer of Henderson, Tenn.; a sister, Deborah Blumenthal of Rockville, New York; and nephews.



DIANE K. RAK—THE TECH

Olayemi A. Oyeboode '09 participates in the Circle K Snowman Building Contest, held this past Sunday. (Shaved ice was provided in lieu of the real thing.) Money raised from the event went to UNICEF.

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Solution to Crossword
from page 9

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Dru Award Competition



Each semester FAIR Fund, Inc. presents Dru Awards to student applicants submitting the most creative and well-thought-out ideas for combating violence against women. If you win, you'll have the opportunity to carry out your project idea and to share your progress and results online with campus activists nationwide.

Award: Up to \$1500 (plus a small stipend of up to \$600) and professional organizational support as needed for implementing your project.

Who may apply: Any student enrolled in higher education and committed to ending gender-based violence on her campus and in her community.

Submission deadline: Feb. 28, 2007.

How to apply: Complete the online application at <http://drucampaign.org/>.

Questions may be addressed to Makiko Hotoda, FAIR Fund National Programs Officer, drucampaign@fairfund.org, or the MIT Crime Club, crimeclub@mit.edu.



The MIT Crime Club first gained notoriety two years ago when our efforts to promote *in vitro* drink testing for date-rape drugs at Harvard, MIT, and BU were featured in the *Phoenix* (Deirdre Fulton, "About Last Night") and the *Weekly Dig*. Our members have been serving as the Police Log Compilers for MIT and Harvard at the *Cambridge Chronicle*. We were recently invited by FAIR Fund to help identify students with innovative project ideas for deterring violent crime on campus.

GSC to Hold Graduate Student Formal in May

The first-ever GradGala, organized by the Graduate Student Council, will be held May 5 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, to be preceded by a reception at Edgerton House graduate dormitory. Workshops on dining etiquette, dress codes, and how to dance will also be held in the months before the dance. The new event will be open to all graduate students and their dates.

News Briefs

GradGala was created as a way to honor the graduating graduate students, said Eva Kassens, a member of the GSC and Gala committee.

The dance and dress code workshops will be free, but prices for the dining etiquette workshop will depend on the number of people who want to attend.

All current funds come from the GSC, including \$38,000 for the ball, \$10,000 for the reception, and \$1,500 for workshops, Kassens said. Ticket prices, though not yet finalized, should be below \$30 per person for the ball and reception. "If this first gala is a success," Kassens said, "we will have the option to gain outside funding and likely financial support from the dean of graduate students, which will be essential features for the gala to continue."

To spread the word about the GradGala, the GSC will hold a logo design competition; the winner will receive two tickets. For more information, see <http://gsc.mit.edu/gradgala/>.

—Sohyun Park

Weak Pipe Joint Caused Water Main Accident

A tear at a joint connecting the 12-inch cast iron pipe on the corner of Main and Ames St. was found to be the main cause for MIT's water crisis on Jan. 17. The City of Cambridge Water Department repaired the broken joint by replacing it with a new joint and a coupling.

According to Sam Corda, the managing director of the city's water department, the old cast iron pipes are prone to cracking. "The temperature difference between the warmer underground and the cold weather put a stress on the old cast-iron pipe," Corda said.

Since the mid-1990s, the Water Department has been working towards a long-term solution, replacing old cast iron pipes with newer, more malleable ductile iron pipes. They plan to replace about 180 miles of the outdated cast iron pipes over the next 30–40 years, Corda said.

David J. McCormick, director of operations in the Department of Facilities, also explained that MIT will have to pay for the damage caused by this accident, which occurred in E19. "At this point the collected costs are approximately \$10,000, but that number will grow as the costs associated with repairs and restoration continue to be collected," McCormick said.

Twenty-one MIT buildings were affected by the pipe rupture and lost their steady water supply for about one day.

—JiHye Kim

Free airfare and scholarships for participants

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